has been bringing the matter to the notice of appropriate authorities. Such cases of diversion as reported to the Government are investigated by the Ministry of Finance.

(c) and (d). Recently on a report of diversion of consignment of coffee meant for export to Russia under the debt repayment track, the Coffee Board has taken the following remedial steps on immediate basis:-

(i) All the exporters who have shipped coffee to Russia after 1.4.96 were requested to furnish corresponding landing certificates along with customs clearance certificates;

(ii) The exporters were also warned not to divert coffee from the destinations mentioned in the permits;

(iii) The exporters were further requested not to use the balance permits issued to them by the Board for export to Russia until they furnish landing proof for all the quantity for which proof of export had been submitted;

(iv) All the major ports and customs authorities have been requested by the Board not to allow any shipments to Russia without prior clearance from the Coffee Board. A list of pending permits along with exporterwise details were also furnished to the port authorities;

Moreover, it has also been informed by the Coffee Board that hence-forth the Board is stipulating on the permits as well as on the certificate of origin that the "Country of destination not changeable to other than the country of destination for which the permit was issued. The Board has also made it mandatory that exporters shall furnish landing certificates with customs clearance certificates for all exports meant for Russia under the debt repayment route.

In addition, the Government of India also contemplates the following remedial measures for preventing diversion of export consignments meant for Russia under the debt repayment track:-

(i) Export through consignment sales by way of customs bonded warehouses;

(ii) Working towards a bilateral agreement between India and Russian on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs matters;

(iii) insistence on the Russian side for providing satisfactory proof of landing.

The Government of Russian Federation has also introduced a new scheme called the "Passbook Scheme for Import" for preventing loss of revenue due to switch trade and this measure is expected to curb diversion of export consignments meant for Russia.

(a) and (f). The need for effective monitoring and greater cooperation in these matters was emphasized by the Indian side through diplomatic channels and the Russian side have promised to cooperate in the matter. Moreover, finalisation of the proposed bilateral agreement between India and Russia for Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in customs matters is expected to contribute to the resolution of the problems in this regard to a significant extent.

Cost of Production of Cement

4494. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to reduce the cost of production of cement industry;

(b) if so, the steps being taken in this regard;

(c) the steps being taken to increase the production of cement; and

(d) the target fixed for the Eighth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b). While there is no specific Government programme to reduce the cost of production of cement, Government is encouraging research and development, modernisation, upgradation of technology, improvement of fuel efficiency etc. which result in higher productivity and reduction in cost of production.

(c) Cement Industry has been delicensed and decontrolled. The industry has been put in the priority list for foreign investment and technical collaboration. Two lines of Credit of the World Bank extended to the Cement Industry have resulted in substantial addition to the installed capacity and modernisation of the cement industry. The industry has been made eligible for ADB line of Credit provided recently. Government is also providing coal linkage and allocating rail wagons to the industry on a priority basis.

(d) A production target of 76 million tonnes of cement has been fixed for the terminal year of the Eighth Five Year Plan.

Programmes for Backward Areas

4495. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have evolved programmes for the industrialisation of rural and backward areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b). Promotion of industries in the rural and backward areas is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. The Central Government however, supplements the efforts of the State Governments by facilitating the availability of finance, raw material, technology, marketing and creatin of institutional infrastructre.

The Central Government evolves broad policy frame work for development of vilage, cottage and Agro Industries in rural and backwrd areas. The various agencies of the Central Government such as Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment, Ministry of Industries, Development Commissioner for Small Scale Industries, Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Development Commissioner for Handicrafts and Seri-culture Board undertake the promotion and development of rural and village industries. At the district level, there are 422 District Industries Centres which are extending comprehenive services and facilities for setting up industries in the rural areas and ensure close linkage with the agencies engaged in rural development.

At the national level, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC),which is a statutory organisation, is charged with the responsibility of promotion and development of 96 village industries coming under their purview. These industries are spread through-out the country. In accordance with the recommendations of the High Power Committee on Khadi and Village Industries the KVIC has taken up intensive development of these village industries and separate fund has been earmarked for this purpose. There are various special programmes launched by KVIC for this purpose such as Special District Employment Programme, Block Development Programmes, Special Project Programmes etc., under which industries are encouraged in the rural areas.

Under the programme for backward area, Government is looking after the implementation of Growth Centre Scheme, 1988, under which it is proposed to set up 71 growth centres in the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan. Each of the Growth Centre would be developed at an estimated cost of about Rs. 25 to 30 crores and would be endowed with basic infrastructure facilities like power, water, banking and telecommunication for enabling them to attract the industries. The Central Government's contribution towards each Centre would be Rs. 10 crores. The allocation of Growth Centres to the States, has been made on the basis of combined criteria of population and the extent industrial backwardness in the State.

There is also a scheme called Integrated Infrastructure Development (IID) with focus on exclusively for small industrial units in rural backward areas, preferably, agro based industries. Under IID, the industrial areas specifically developed with facilities such as land, plots, water supply, power connection, drainage, common facilities including testing are to be set up. The cost of each project is Rs. 5 crores with Central grant of Rs. 2 crores and balance Rs. 3 crores given as loan by SIDBI and other financial institutions/ banks. State Governments will provide 20 hectares of land in rural/backward areas.

Delicencing of Industries

4496. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to delicence 10 industries includng alcohol and cigar, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b).At present there is a short list of 15 industries under compulsory licensing. The process of reviewing the list of items retained under compulsory licensing is an ongoing process. However, no decision has yet been taken by the Government to further delicence any industry including alcohol and cigar.

New Industrial Units

4497. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether registration of new Industrial units is done in Delhi only

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to decentralise the registration procedure in order to mitigate the difficulties of entrepreneurs who have to travel from far flung areas to Delhi for such work;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (e). With the announcement of New Industrial Policy in July, 1991 for setting up industrial units in delicensed sector, entrepreneurs are required to file Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandum (IEM) in terms of Notification No. 477 (E) dated 25.7.91. A computerised running acknowledgement number is given to each IEM filed at Entrepreneurial Assistance Unit, Udyog Bhavan, New Delhi. The IEMs received by post are also acknowledged the same way and acknowledgements are sent by registered post. It is thus not necessary for the entrepreneur to come personally to file the IEM.

Performance of Banks in Orissa

4498. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: